

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 20, 2011
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Children's Advocacy Institute

BILL NUMBER: AB 1015
AUTHOR: C. Calderon

BILL SUMMARY: Child and Family Service Review System

This bill would require counties to consult with specified stakeholders when developing county self-assessments and improvement plans as part of the Department of Social Services' (DSS') California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) process. It would also require that a county improvement plan include proposed operational improvements identified during the stakeholder process.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The DSS estimates no fiscal impact as a result of this measure. However, the provisions that require counties to include additional stakeholders in the C-CFSR process and codify reporting requirements create the potential for a state-reimbursable mandate. Finance notes that under realignment counties would fully bear the cost of the Child Welfare Services program (which includes an allocation for the C-CFSR). However, pending additional realignment implementation legislation, the state would be responsible for such mandate costs.

Currently, counties receive an appropriation to conduct C-CFSR activities and the DSS does not believe the requirements of this bill would create significant additional costs to counties. Therefore, the DSS assumes counties would be able to comply with the bill's requirements utilizing their existing allocations.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill due to the following:

- The provisions of the bill create the potential for a state-reimbursable mandate by imposing additional outreach and reporting requirements on counties.
- The bill would run counter to realignment's goal of increased local flexibility.
- This bill appears unnecessary. Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001 (AB 636), required the DSS to develop the C-CFSR system. As part of the implementation of the C-CFSR, the DSS provided counties with instructions to complete their reporting requirements. These requirements were disseminated by the Administration through an All County Letter. It would be possible to add the requirements specified in the bill to the C-CFSR process through similar means without legislation.
- The federal government could change the reporting requirements for this review process. It does not seem prudent to codify requirements that could change, given these changes can be addressed by the administration without the need for legislation.

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Analyst/Principal (0512) T. Calvert	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Nicholas Buchen	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

C. Calderon

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COMMENTS (Continued)

Current law and regulations already require counties to perform C-CFSR activities, which include identifying possible improvements to the child welfare system and engaging with stakeholders. Counties receive funding from the DSS to complete these activities. The DSS is required to report to the Legislature on possible program improvements identified through the C-CFSR process.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001
8885/Comm St Mndt	LA	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary -----					0001